



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

March 11, 2014

10:00 AM

Clean Care of New England, Inc.

850 Wellington Avenue,
Cranston Rhode Island 02910

Attendance

The Adjutant General Kevin R. McBride
Jamia McDonald, RIEMA Director
Jack Chartier, State Fire Marshal
Peter Gaynor, Providence Emergency Management Agency
Peter Popko, United States Coast Guard
Alysia Mihalakos, Rhode Island Department of Health
Jim Ball, RI Department of Environmental Management
Dawn Lewis, Hospital Association of Rhode Island
James Lanni, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
Gregory Scungio, RI E911 Uniform Emergency Telephone System
Alan Seitz, Department of Homeland Security
Joseph Arsenault, Richmond Emergency Management Association
Patrick McMahon, Charlestown Police Department
Elizabeth McDonald, American Red Cross
Erin McDonough, Rhode Island Medical Reserve Corps / RI DMAT
Susan Earley, Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
Paul Stasiuk, National Grid
Peter Ginaitt, Lifespan
Jeff Hatcher, Rhode Island Architects Engineers Emergency Response Task Force 7
Jay Burdick, Rhode Island Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters / United Way 211
Lori Needham, Rhode Island Broadcasters Association
Mike DeMello, South Kingstown Police Department
Gwenn Stearn, Rhode Island State Archives
Pam Marchard, Rhode Island Water Resources Board
Donna DiMichele, Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services
Theresa Woodmansee, Protecting the Past Rhode Island
Joseph McCooey, Rhode Island Courts

Mi Ok Bruining, Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
John Washburn Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
Michelle Burnett, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
Armand Randolph, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
Marc Pappas, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
Tom Guthlein, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
Lori Adamo, Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change / Code Red Business
Continuity Services
Larry Grimaldi, Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs
John Saporita, Rhode Island National Guard
Claribel Serrano, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Vladimir Ibarra, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

I. Call to Order / Attendance - Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

RIEMA Director McDonald chaired the meeting on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Roberts.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2013

Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Update

The presentation served as the agency update from Director McDonald.

IV. Continuation of Realignment of Domestic Preparedness Subcommittees

Jamia McDonald, RIEMA Executive Director

Director McDonald continued the conversation around aligning Subcommittee Workgroups to Emergency Support Functions (ESF). A question was raised as to whether the subcommittee workgroups were established as a matter of statute. The Director clarified that the subcommittee workgroups were not but developed around policy issues that the state was overseeing. Therefore, she added that the transition does not need any legislative and/or regulatory changes and will only enhance capabilities while addressing policy gaps. However, an issue that will need further clarification is the broad scope of assignments and/or duties under the ESF lead agencies.

The Director went on to cross-reference the 15 ESFs with the Subcommittee workgroups. Under ESF 1 (Transportation) she examined under the subcommittee structure, where it would fall closest. The Transportation Security Group seemed to fit since its scope includes: evacuate persons from threatened or immediate danger; monitor, control, and coordination of vehicular traffic; provide infrastructure status reports for all modes of transportation; provide multi-modal transportation in support of other ESFs; identify damage to transportation systems and infrastructure as a result of the incident.

ESF 2 (Communications) falls under the jurisdiction of the Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.

ESF 3 (Public Works and Engineering) there was a question as to when has this function been activated and a maintenance vs. design piece.

ESF 4 (Firefighting) had as its lead agency the Office of the Fire Marshal. The function was activated most recently during Hurricane Sandy and during the 2010 Floods the mutual aid plans were exercised.

ESF 5 (Emergency Management) the conversation centered around how and when do we stand the Emergency Operations Center and/or WebEOC, once the Governor has executed his authority, what are the protocols (trigger points and consequences) for municipal partners? There was a question as to how municipal leaders fit within this framework.

ESF 6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services) there was a question in regards to the national framework including disaster housing and this section not fitting well with most subsections since they dealt with on-scene operations.

ESF 7 (Logistics Management and Resource Support) encompasses every other function and has relied heavily on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It needs further assessment in order to increase capacity.

ESF 8 (Public Health and Medical Services) this function is still in partnership building phase. One of the challenges highlighted, were the mechanism used to communicate with the Long Term Care Community under home care and what were some of the preparedness steps/stages to better educate the public. Also, MOUs were discussed and the 258 different arrangements will perhaps create deployment and resource issues.

ESF 9 (Search and Rescue) falls under the jurisdiction of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) there is a need to look at protocols and environmental scan of assets.

ESF 10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials Response) falls under the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management one of the gaps highlighted was in the event of a major incident there would be capacity and resource allocation issues despite protocols built into mutual aid plans.

ESF 11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources) Nutrition assistance, animal and plant disease and pest response, food safety and security, natural and cultural resources and historic properties and restoration, safety and well-being of household pets. (Please see further discussion below)

ESF 12 (Energy) some of the gaps highlighted under a major event would be fuel capacity and communications.

ESF 13 (Public Safety and Security) some of the items discussed in this section were event management (both annual and seasonal) and statewide resource planning as most events are coordinated at the municipal level with statewide and federal interagency collaboration. It was suggested to use the Incident Command System to alleviate some of these questions and be more strategic and proactive in the request via Web EOC.

ESF 14 (Long Term Community Recovery) involves ESF 6 and ESF11 more conversations are needed.

ESF 15 (External Affairs) there were discussions in regards to levels of activation, further engagement of stakeholders once the Joint Information Center and the Joint Operations Center are activated and ongoing meetings to lay out a framework.

Despite some agencies fitting nicely into the ESF structure, there are others that encompass miscellaneous agencies areas of expertise. A perfect example of a miscellaneous

group is ESF 11-Agriculture and Natural Resources. Its scope is nutrition assistance, animal and plant disease and pest response, food and safety security, natural and cultural resources and historic properties protection and restoration and safety and well-being of household pets. Nevertheless, the ESF #11 prepared by Protecting the Past Rhode Island was not integrated with the ESF #11 overseen by the State Veterinarian. It was suggested to perhaps arrange the structure by specific topic categories instead of ESFs. However, a question arose as to what to do with topics such as Special Populations that need to be considered in all functions.

MG McBride suggested to align based on the level of expertise particular to the ESF. Some of the questions that came up dealt with forming policy groups based on needs established by RIEMA leads and consequently changing roles based on the responsibility assigned. For instance with topics such as cyber-security, brainstorming is needed to determine how the capacity can be enhanced so that it can be utilized as force multipliers.

Peter Gaynor Director of the Providence Emergency Management Agency shared how his agency was able to leverage city resources as a way to perhaps help in the restructuring. Mr. Gaynor conducted an in-house survey and became aware that the Public Works department had geographic information system (GIS) capabilities. These capabilities were often contracted from other vendors. From that point forward the GIS capabilities have been shared increasing capacity and reducing cost. One of the important questions for the city and its departments was the lead and support functions once systems were activated. The realignment based on capabilities provides a better framework to assess the unique capabilities and resources available.

MG McBride followed up with framing the capabilities as if we were facing an instant event without notice and/or time to coordinate and the ongoing question as to how one captures those capabilities. Right now, it seems that most activities are event driven, how would the team work? Another idea suggested was to have workgroups outside of the ESF structure and have representatives bring that information so that we have multi discipline and multi group. Another suggestion was to eliminate subcommittees and simply have the ESF leads.

V. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 13. Director McDonald suggested as next steps to look at the core capability priorities under the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and have the RIEMA division leads outline policy objectives to align Council expertise and support developing objectives further.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.
